

Minnesota State Retirement System

July 26, 2004

Congressman Gil Gutknocht 425 Cangon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Gusknecht:

I want to thank you for your leadership in establishing Health Savings Accounts for those under age 65. I strongly encourage you to support similar accounts that would be valuable for retiroes age 65 and over.

As you know, rising health care costs and prescription drug costs have made it difficult, if not impossible, for many people to afford adequate health care coverage. Health Savings Accounts would provide a modest and extremely effective way to help pay for these costs.

On behalf of the 50,000 state employees and 23,000 henefit recipients covered by the Minnesota State Retirement System (MSRS), I encourage you to work with members of Congress and the Bush Administration to provide Health Savings Accounts to all retirees.

Again, thank you for your support and leadership on this and your entempts to lower prescription drug costs.

Sincerely.

Devid Bergstreen Executive Director